

**Virginia HIV Community Planning Committee
Meeting Summary**

Members Present: Dan Alvarez, Nathaniel Amos, Mark Baker, Bill Briggs, Heather Bronson, Rhonda Callaham, Denise Clayborn, Dr. Rosalyn Cousar, Hugo Delgado, Carrie Dolan, Caroline Fuller, Richard Hall, Robert Hewitt, Martha Lees, Elaine Martin, Nicholas Mattsson, Girum Mekonnen, Dr. Joseph Riddick, Ruth Royster, Paul Searcy, Edward Strickler, Jr., Bruce Taylor

Members Absent: Odile Attiglah, Tomas Cabrera (represented), Vontrida Custis, Gregory Fordham, Deidre Johnson, Michael McIntyre, Robert Rigby, Jr., Leslie Stanley, Silvia Villacampa

Other Attendees: Kathleen Carter, Ami Gandhi, and Rachel Rees of the Virginia Department of Health; William Cooper of K. I. Services (representing Tomas Cabrera); Shannon Rodriguez of VORA

Total of 27 attendees.

Welcome and Introductions

Elaine called the meeting to order at 8:45 am and introductions were made.

Membership

Elaine explained that we are still recruiting for a transgender member and that we could use some additional African American applications because the current demographic profile of the committee has a majority of white members. Discussion followed about restrictions for memberships (i.e., members have to live or work in Virginia; there can be no more than one member from a given agency; and executive directors of agencies funded by VDH are not allowed to serve.)

Old Business

Elaine Martin reported on her experiences at the HIV Leadership Prevention Summit in New Orleans. She stated the best session she attended focused on health department employees and health issues. Problems identified were increased bureaucracy, such as more hoops to jump through, mandatory vendors, and increased IT costs, and she was reassured that Virginia is not alone in dealing with those issues.

New Business

1) Joint Public Hearings for HIV Health Care and Prevention: Public comments will be solicited this fall for the Virginia Department of Health's use of Ryan White Program Part B funds during the 2008-2009 grant year and issues and barriers related to HIV prevention. Public hearings will be conducted on:

September 18, 2007

1:30 – 3:30 pm

Eastern Virginia Medical Center
Hofheimer Hall, Room 752
Norfolk, Virginia

October 17, 2007

12:00 – 2:00 pm
Council of Community Services
502 Campbell Avenue, SW
Roanoke, Virginia

October 23, 2007

11:00 am – 1:00 pm
Fan Free Clinic
1010 North Thompson Street
Richmond, VA 23220

November 6, 2007

State-wide Conference Call
Dial 1-800-337-3137, Passcode 8002

For more information, please contact **Ami Gandhi** at Ami.Gandhi@vdh.virginia.gov or 804-864-8002.

2) *Virginia Organizations Responding to AIDS (VORA) Annual Meeting* – VORA will launch its 2008 legislative plan at its annual meeting on September 12, 2007 at 4:00 pm. More information can be found at www.voraonline.org.

Review of 2008 Grant Application—Small Group Discussion

The HIV prevention grant application was submitted on August 31st. The goals today are to 1) Review the grant application to see whether it follows the goals set down in the comprehensive plan and 2) draft a Letter of Concurrence, Letter of Concurrence with Reservations, or Letter of Non-concurrence that describes, via a written response from the CPG, whether the health department application does or does not, and to what degree, agree with the priorities set forth in the Comprehensive HIV Prevention Plan. The group broke into three groups to review the Budget justification, Narrative Sections I-VI, and Interventions – Narrative Sections VII-XI.

Break

Review of 2008 Grant Application—Large Group Discussion and Vote

The group's consensus was that the budget justification presented in the grant application does represent the will of the CPG. However, Rosalyn Cousar was concerned that there is still a disparity in rural areas and wanted the issue of inadequate funding included in the letter. Consensus was that the narrative sections represent the will of the CPG, but there were questions concerning social networking for CBOs, such as who would be responsible, how effective the model will be, and in which regions will it would take place. Elaine reported that she and Caroline Campbell will attend social network training in October and will conduct the training

for CBOs. She discussed the need for social networking in rural areas with few testing venues, and wishes to start the training in Southwest and Northwest regions because the agencies that are doing the testing there have low positivity rates. The group also wanted to discuss proposed changes in the *Code of Virginia* concerning perinatal testing at a future meeting.

Rosalyn Cousar opened up the floor to vote on a letter of concurrence, a letter of concurrence with reservations, or letter of non-concurrence. A motion was made to write a letter of concurrence. Although there were no reservations, the HCPC was in unanimous agreement regarding issues of restrictions on use of federal funding for syringe exchange programs; the continual decrease in funding for prevention programs and decreased funding for direct services for at-risk populations; and the lack of adequate dollars for at-risk rural populations which prevents exploration of the barriers to local access and the provision of culturally competent services within the rural setting.

Rosalyn Cousar, Nathaniel Amos, and Edward Strickler volunteered to write the letter of concurrence.

Intervention Menu for Populations

As a continuation from the previous meeting, Ami Gandhi discussed the list of interventions selected for the priority populations and that the goal today was to finalize the menu of interventions. The group would need to review the final list of interventions and narrow it down to the final recommendations. Interventions selected for the homeless population were finalized as a whole group. The CPG then broke into two groups: group one reviewed interventions for people living with HIV, men who have sex with men, high risk heterosexuals, transgenders, and Latinos; and group two reviewed interventions for Blacks, injection drug users, the incarcerated, and youth. Once the groups reconvened, Ms. Gandhi announced that the menu of interventions would be compiled and the summary for the selection of interventions would be emailed to the group for their review and approval in the coming weeks.

Lunch

Subcommittees

Research and Standards & Practices Subcommittees met

Standards and Practices – reported by Ruth Royster, Co-Chair

African American Initiative – The subcommittee discussed timelines, action steps, and mobilization of leaders in the African American community. The mission was set to mobilize black community leaders and engage the legislature and city councils in order to lobby for more state funding. The types of data and information to include in the community mobilization effort were discussed. Elaine announced that the HCPC may have the opportunity to collaborate with the Office of Minority Health's advisory board and will invite them to the November meeting. An estimated timeline for distribution was set for National HIV Testing Day in June 2008.

Research – Reported by Carrie Dolan

Update on Epi Profile - To allow more time for inclusion of group level analysis Carrie Dolan informed the group that the Epi. Profile would be launched online December 1, 2007 (World

AIDS Day) instead of in a printed format. Printed versions of the Profile will be available shortly after the online release. Carrie listed additional analyses that will be in this years profile including the unmet need calculation with Medicaid data, improved graphic design and data visualization, calculation of rates for HIV/AID and STDs, poverty analysis at the census tract level, inclusion of HIV testing data, maps of HIV at the census tract level, separate section on rural, inclusion of late diagnosis analysis, separate section on TB/HIV Co-infection and research highlights provided by CPG members as well as CPG involvement in writing each section. She thanked the group for all the hard work drafting the initial text and encouraged additional Profile suggestions to be e-mailed.

Reading and approval of letter of concurrence

The letter of concurrence was read by Rosalyn Cousar and approved by the CPG.

Review of June Meeting Summary

Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as written.

Planning for November Meeting

- 1) Presentation on ethnographic research (qualitative research technique) – possibly a researcher from VCU (requested by Paul Searcy)
- 2) Proposed perinatal legislation and standards of care
- 3) Presentation of HIV vaccination program – Bill Briggs
- 4) Comprehensive Plan – Ami will have sent out draft for review
- 5) Office of Minority Health – talk on racial disparity
- 6) Update on DCLS

Setting of 2008 Meeting Calendar and Agenda

January 10

March 7

May 1

June 20

August 28

November 7

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Elaine Martin, Community Co-Chair

Date

Kathleen Carter, Recording Secretary

Date